

From: bousozoku
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 12:05am
Subject: My comments

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a software developer as well as a computer user, I am concerned that the recent agreement settles nothing for which the lawsuit was initiated.

Over the years, I have seen various attempts by Microsoft to secure its position:

It had been shown by Andrew Schulman in Doctor Dobb's Journal, that they put special programming into Windows 3.0 and 3.1 to dissuade users of Digital Research's DR-DOS with their product.

They were also in an agreement to use the Stac storage compression technology, then decided to dissolve the agreement, but left the programming in their MS-DOS 6.2.

Microsoft was late in building office suite software for their own operating system. In the early days of Windows 3.0, their office software performed terribly. When Windows 3.1 arrived, not only did their software perform much faster, the competitors' software broke. There was much discussion of undisclosed APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) used by the office products.

Recently, they disabled Apple's QuickTime plug-in (and others) for Internet Explorer.

I understand that someone will monitor Microsoft's accounting practices. I'm not certain this was ever a problem. It is their business practices which need adjustment.

If Microsoft are allowed to proceed with only a minimum of change, they will continue to restrain free enterprise. I'm not saying that everyone can be protected from Microsoft, but much more needs to be done. Why does Microsoft need to agree to punishments anyway? Does the U.S. government fear Microsoft? Besides this, why was there such a marked change in the course of this trial once the Bush administration came into office?

Thank you,
Curt Risor
Oviedo, FL

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